



The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 1
Tammy Meltzer CHAIRPERSON | Lucian Reynolds DISTRICT MANAGER

Town Hall on Battery Park City Resiliency Projects
Statement by Tammy Meltzer, Chairperson
June 15, 2022, 9:00AM

Since Superstorm Sandy devastated Lower Manhattan in 2012, Manhattan Community Board 1 (CB1) has worked tirelessly with city, state and federal agencies towards the goal of implementing a comprehensive, integrated flood protection system to protect all of Lower Manhattan. CB1 has established specific committees dedicated to engaging on and carefully reviewing Lower Manhattan resiliency plans, including the plans for the Battery Park City Resiliency Projects (BPCR).

Engagement on the BPCR projects with the Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) and the public has been substantial. CB1 has spent countless hours in earnest review of the BPCA resiliency projects including plans for the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project (SBPCR). Since December 2016, SBPCR has been calendared and discussed at over thirty four public CB1 meetings, resulting in extensive comment on the project including four resolutions and several letters. CB1 repeatedly questioned the need to raze Wagner Park and the pavilion and is on record opposing this approach.

However, it is critical to confirm here that CB1 strongly supports moving forward expeditiously in addressing the comprehensive resiliency needs for all of Lower Manhattan. As the Battery Park City Authority's project advances, we need to reiterate that it is crucial that all current and future work be phased to prioritize the areas with most acute need, located at the pinch points and lowest lying levels such as Pier A, Chambers Street and West Street. It is also imperative that green open space, recreation areas, existing trees, pedestrian paths and bikeways be preserved in the interest of comprehensive resiliency for all New Yorkers and those who live, work and spend time in our district.

We look forward to ongoing robust community engagement with the BPCA and our elected officials as the critical planning for the Battery Park City Resiliency projects continue and we move forward together towards the common goal of protecting Lower Manhattan.